

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 18-22 are pending. To simplify examination, the subject matter of claims 10 and 18 are switched. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Applicants elect Group V (claims 9-12) with traverse to examine the invention directed to treatment or prevention using a proline specific endoprotease. Claims 9-12 read on the elected invention. As regards the requirement to elect a single disorder, “celiac disease, a disease associated with the occurrence of celiac disease, or a disease caused by a decreased level of proline specific proteases in a patient’s body” and, more specifically, celiac disease is elected as the species for examination. Claims 9-12 read on the elected species. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute non-elected subject matter in a further patent application.


Notwithstanding the above election, reconsideration of the restriction requirement is requested because examination of all pending claims would not constitute a serious burden. Although the inventions identified by the Examiner are separately patentable, both the need for compact prosecution and the public interest would be served by examination of all claims in a single application. In particular, claims 8, 14-15 and 20 are related to the subject matter of the elected invention and species. Thus, they should be examined because they are generic for the elected invention. In this respect, diseases associated with the occurrence of celiac disease are generic for “celiac disease” itself.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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